



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Marine Corps War College
2076 South Street
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5067

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1 Feb 12

Dear Student,

Welcome Aboard! On behalf of the Commanding General, Education Command and the faculty and staff of the Marine Corps War College, congratulations on your selection to the MCWAR Class of 2013. Selection to a resident top-level school is a distinct privilege bestowed on a select few who have demonstrated both superb past performance and superior future potential. The professional education you experience at MCWAR is a significant and invaluable investment toward your future. In the course of the year, you will earn a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies, achieve Joint Professional Military Education Level II (JPME II) certification, and establish an extensive network of professional and personal relationships.

MCWAR is an elite educational institution, unique among its peers and well-deserving of its superb reputation for academic excellence. Your classmates will include representatives from all branches of the Armed Forces, various government agencies, and three foreign militaries. You will be guided in your education by a team of distinguished military and civilian professors, each an expert in their field of study. The first-rate education, unparalleled exposure to some of the world's top strategic thinkers, top-notch faculty, and extensive travel program will position you for an unmatched educational experience and for one of the most rewarding experiences of your career.

In the way of preparation, I ask each of you to read and think about two seminal documents that will shape your experience with us here at MCWAR. The first is MCDP 1 (*Warfighting*) and the second is MCDP 1-1 (*Strategy*). These documents are available online. Beyond this, you should refer to the "MCWAR Recommended Reading List" on our homepage at <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/Pages/MCWAR%20New.aspx> and partake insofar as your busy schedules allow.

Report dates vary by service, agency, and nationality. This schedule, along with all required pre-reporting actions, is contained at the link "Marine Corps University Welcome Aboard" on the MCU homepage at <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/default.aspx>. Access that link at the earliest opportunity and take action as appropriate. You will receive more detailed information regarding the College, our curriculum, and the academic calendar during your formal in-processing. In the meantime, if you need additional information or assistance, contact us at (703) 784-4081 (DSN 278) or via e-mail using the contacts listed in the "MCWAR Faculty Directory" on our homepage.

Semper Fidelis,

J. L. HATTON
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps